



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

#### SESSION OF THE MAINE STATE AG. SOCIETY.

The Maine State Agricultural Society commenced a session on Tuesday evening, 25th ult., at City Hall in Gardiner.

Mr. Butman, President of the Society, on taking the chair, called the attention of the members to the great and paramount interests they were associated to promote, viz.: the encouragement and improvement of agriculture, and the kindred occupations both as a science and as an art. The Society, he observed, was just commencing an active existence, and it required the hearty cooperation not only of the members but of the whole community, to make that existence so strong and vigorous, that it should become the pride of Maine.

Some observation being made of the lack of easy communication to the show by Railroads, Mr. Holmes, of Winthrop, stated, that had the several railroads in the State granted the facilities of transportation that the people had a right to expect, the show of stock and manufactures would have been quadrupled.

That, as Secretary of the Society, he addressed a circular to every superintendent of every Maine Railroad, asking in behalf of the State Society, that they would grant the same facilities to the farmers and mechanics, that are granted in other States where there are State Societies, viz.: carrying stock and articles to the show free, at the owner's risk, and the people at half price.

The Superintendents of the York and Cumberland Roads, the Buckfield Branch, the Androscoggin Road, and the Bangor and Old Town Road, answered promptly, granting the request. The Superintendent of the Androscoggin and Kennebec, and Kennebec and Penobscot Roads, answered that he would grant the request, provided the show should be held on his line of road. The Superintendents of the Atlantic road, and of the Portland and Portsmouth road did not answer him at all.

He afterwards incidentally learned that at a meeting of the Superintendents at Portland, they came to the conclusion that they would carry stock and articles for exhibition at full price, but return it free on presentation of a ticket from the Society purporting that it had not been sold. They also concluded to make no deduction for carrying the people.

This seems to have been a private understanding among them as no public announcement was made of their deliberations and its results in this respect.

The Superintendent of the Kennebec and Portland Road, adhered to this position until seven days ago, when the promptings of liberal feelings overcome the narrow conclusions adopted at the Superintendents' meeting, and he gave orders that the road should be opened on liberal terms. This, though late, has been of great advantage to us.

Mr. H. then laid on the table the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That we look upon the establishment of Railroads as designed for the promotion of the public good. That their welfare and prosperity is mutual and reciprocal with that of the people, and when facilities of transportation on public occasions can be given at reduced price, and with manifest advantage to the funds, of such corporations, it would seem to be the part of prudence and sound policy, that they should be liberal in granting such facilities to agricultural societies.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the Superintendents of the York & Cumberland, the Buckfield Branch, the Androscoggin, the Penobscot & Old Town, and the Kennebec & Portland and Kennebec & Somers Road, for the expression of their desire to aid the Maine State Ag. Society in their show and fair at the present time.

Resolved, That we hope that the experience of future time may, by its enlightening and liberalizing inducements, induce the other Railroad corporations in Maine, to become as kind and liberal to the farmers and mechanics of Maine, as the companies that we have named.

**CULTIVATION OF CRANBERRIES.** At the New Hampshire State Fair, Richard Hall of Auburn, exhibited some cultivated cranberries, raised in a run not very wet, but bordering upon the high land. His process of cultivation he stated to be this: to remove the surface of the ground some three inches in depth, which in this case was carted to the pig-sty; he then took sand from the shore of a pond, and spread it plentifully upon the ground, and set his vines two feet apart; the second year after this he had a plentiful crop. This was done three years ago, and the vines now cover the ground completely, no grass or weeds being present. He has done nothing to the vines since, and says that the average yield will be, the present year, two bushels of cranberries to every ten feet square. He estimates this the most profitable crop which he can cultivate. He has five acres of this land which now produces nothing, but which he intends to appropriate to this use.

When it is considered that fruit is now sold at not less than two dollars a bushel in our markets, this can be considered as farming to some purpose and profit. There are thousands of acres in New England which should undergo the same treatment. By such a course a great deal of wealth would be added to the community annually from the investment of a small amount of capital. Mr. Hall also stated that some cranberries in the immediate vicinity, growing naturally, had been destroyed by the frosts, while those cultivated were not affected in the least.

Chop corn-stalks and coarse fodder fine, that cattle may eat well.

#### SHORT READINGS ON APPLES.

Mr. Editor:—A few days ago, Lieut. Gov. Brown of the N. E. Farmer, handed me your copy of the 13th of September, in which you copy an article of mine, entitled "Short readings on apples," and manifest some interest in it in your prefatory remarks. You regret that I did not sign my name in full, so that you might communicate with me directly. I did not think it of much importance, else I should have done so,—besides I am not an extensive cultivator of fruit, having only an acre of land, yet, I have planted it with choice varieties of fruit trees, in which I take much interest. I am pleased, however, to know that you take an interest in the apples which I mentioned, and am happy to communicate with you.

Most of the kind of apples of which I spoke, or rather the trees, I procured from Mr. Cole, upon his recommendation, about four years ago. Your experience, it seems, is the opposite of mine in relation to Cole's Quince apple. My tree has borne a few for three years. One or two of the apples hung on for the two first years till they began to color, and by keeping them in the house some days, I found them firm with a pleasant acidity, but not juicy or tender. I was not much disappointed, however, because I could not expect much from the tree in its early bearing, though I have known the first specimens of some trees to be fine samples of the kind. This season it bore more, and four or five apples hung till the latter part of August, and though they were of fair size and well colored, they were knobby, and persisted in their toughness after a week's keeping.

The largest and fairest which the tree bore had retained its yellowness by the middle of August, but it was then hard, and for three weeks it hung and never changed in the least. I then pulled it off to see if it would ripen in the house. It is quite hard to-day, with a tough rind, though of an agreeable flavor.

These apples seem never to rot, in fact, I can't get one ripe. Yet, it seems you can ripen them even farther north by this time, and as you kindly intimate you should like to send me some specimens, I shall inform you where I should be happy to receive them.

I should think the apple might be a good marketing pie-apple; but I question whether you can adapt the language of Mr. Cole, who says of it:—

"When in perfection, we have never seen its superiors."

When I first had the tree I supposed it would be in good eating with the Early Harvest, and that it was destined to rival it, but the famous Gravenstein is ripe before it, and on this account I value it the less; can it stand beside this apple or the Porter? Mr. Cole says the tree requires a strong soil, and I must admit that mine does not stand in as good a spot as I wish I had put it, but it has grown well, having had good care.

An American Summer Pearmain I have not got, but spoke of it on observation. I think Mrs. Cole has it at Chelsea.

I can let you have some of the Magnolia, the Garden Royal, and the Ladies' Sweet, if you would like them.

There is another apple in which I think Mr. Cole took some interest in propagating, and as it is a Maine apple, I will speak of it. It is the Golden Ball. I have a tree though not in bearing, but have seen it once on exhibition by B. B. French, of Baintree. Mr. Cole states it to be a poor bearer; but from an article which I once saw in an agricultural paper, published by Mr. Cole, at Portland, some years ago, I thought it was represented to bear well. Are you acquainted with it? If so, be so kind as to speak of it.

Yours, &c., D. W. LORIMER.

West Medford, Mass., Sept. 17, 1855.

Note. We thank friend Lathrop for his communication, and also for the offer of seeds which we shall be glad to obtain. We consider the Cole's quince valuable for cooking, and know some better for that.

[Ed.]

#### THE GRAIN CROP OF 1855.

Mr. Editor:—Being engaged in running a threshing mill, this season, I forward to you a few facts which I have observed, as they may be interesting to some of your readers, at this time of high prices, and be an inducement to thanksgiving.

I have made enquiries of the farmers, with regard to the state and extent of their land, and the quantity of seed from which they obtained their grain. The oat crop has been a prolific one, and has suffered less, I think, from over-ripening than other crops. The best yields of barley have been from one and a half bushels seed to the acre, and the difference in weight and quality is greater than that in quantity. We have taken 20 bushels of pure barley from three pecks of seed on half an acre of land,—allowance, however, is to be made on account of the season being so favorable to our loamy lands.—The two rowed barley has yielded about two-thirds, or at most, three-quarters, as much as the four rowed, though the grain is larger and heavier.

Wheat has suffered most of all by overripening. Where the quantity has been equal, the quality has been inferior, and the richer the land the more it has been injured.

Some of our best yields have been from one bushel to the acre where it was positively affirmed that the crops destroyed one half of that. If I am rightly informed, we have threshed over 20 bushels of dry wheat from one bushel seed. Stout, stiff straw; long, heavy heads, and full, plump grain. The best wheat is called the white beard, and has been taken from a crate of wheat.

Friend Taber, at the north part of the town, is said to have some still better, though I have seen none of it. But the best of all is, that the farmers have been blessed with a thousand bushels of good wheat within two miles of the mill, and four or five hundred bushels of good rye. The territory being a semi-circle, as the mill is near the river.

Respectfully yours, J. FAIRFIELD.  
Seen Mile Brook, Vass., Sept., 1855.

#### SHOWS AND FAIRS IN MAINE.

The following are the times and places, so far as we can ascertain, of the various Agricultural shows and fairs to be held in this State, the present fall:—

Ss. Kennebec, at Gardiner, Oct. 16th, 17th and 18th.

York, at Saco, Oct. 3 and 4.

East Somerset, at Hardland Village, Oct. 3 and 4.

Androscoggin, at Lewiston, Oct. 3 and 4.

Waldo, at Belfast, Oct. 10 and 11.

Lincoln, at Damariscotta Bridge Village, Oct. 10 and 11.

Sagadahoc, at Topsham, Oct. 10 and 11.

Kennebec, at Wayne, Oct. 10 and 11, and 12.

Cumberland, at Bridgton, Oct. 17 and 18.

Penobscot, at Bangor, Oct. 3 and 4.

Somerset Central, at—

North Kennebec, at Waterville, Oct. 2, 3, and 4.

North Arrostook, at Presque Isle, Oct. 10 and 11.

West Somerset, at Madison Bridge, Oct. 10 and 11.

North Penobscot, at Loo, Oct. 10.

Penobscot & Arrostook Union, at—

Franklin, at—

North Franklin, at Strong Village, Oct. 11 and 12.

Piscataquis, at Dover, Oct. 3 and 4.

West Oxford, at Porter, Oct. 10 and 11.

Oxford, at Canton Mills, Oct. 3 and 4.

Washington, at—

The Secretaries of those Societies whose time and place of show are left blank, will oblige us by forwarding the information requisite to fill out the above table.

For the Maine Farmer.

#### GYPSUM, OR PLASTER OF PARIS.

Mr. Editor:—In looking about the premises of the Lock and Canal Co., a few days since, I noticed a pile of unground plaster, which, from the present rapid progress made in repairing this, to this city, very valuable dam, will in a few days, be in the hopper, and fitted for the use of the farmers, who, if they will but study their own interests, will obtain a supply for sowing upon their moving and pasture lands, this fall, giving it the benefit of the fall rains and the winter snows.

It is a well known fact that the rains and snows bring with them a large amount of ammonia, of which plaster is a powerful absorbent, giving it out again to the plants, as needed. If any one doubts the fact, let him refer to the six-fifth psalm of David, who, if not an agriculturist, was a good shepherd, and well understood the value of the grasses.

AGRICOLA.  
Augusta, Sept. 25, 1855.

#### COST OF RAISING WHEAT, CORN, &c.

The next volume of the New York Agricultural Transactions will contain a detailed farm account of Mr. William Johnson, near Geneva, from which we have the following interesting items in regard to the cost of raising different crops the last season. His statement is published in the Journal of the State Society, for the present month, and shows very creditably the order and method of Mr. J.'s agricultural operations.

The farm contains 80 acres of tillable land, divided into nine lots, numbered from one up to nine, and an accurate account kept with each. The soil is dry loam, with a clay subsoil, pretty uniform throughout the farm. Each crop is charged with the interest on the value of the land producing it, and with all the labor and material used in its production. Of wheat six acres were sown; the whole expense was \$122.40; the product was 125 bushels, or 21 bushels per acre; this makes it cost per bushel a trifle over 97 cents. But deducting the value of the straw, estimated at \$18, we make the cost of the wheat but 83 cents, per bushel. It was sold at \$1.81, leaving a fair margin for profit at either figure. But at the price of wheat for many years past the profit would have been little or nothing.

Eight acres of barley cost \$102.20 and produced 284 bushels, or 35.5 bushels per acre. It cost very nearly 37 cents, and sold for \$1.00 per bushel. This produced a greater per cent. of profit than the wheat, as we believe it generally has for a series of years.

Ten acres of corn, on clover seed, cost \$153.26. The product was 410 bushels of corn, and \$60 worth of corn-stalks. Mr. Johnson states the cost of raising the corn at 27 1/2 cents, per bushel, but if we deduct the value of the stalks from the whole expense, it makes the cost of the corn but 22 1/2 cents, per bushel. We should be glad of some explanation from Mr. J. on this point, as the value of the stalks and straw may have been allowed to balance some part of the expense not indicated.

Ten cows were kept upon the farm, yielding an average of 210 lbs. of butter each. Mr. J. estimates the product of each cow worth about \$64, and the cost of keeping \$26.55. It cost 12 1/2 cents, per lb. to make butter on Elmwood farm, and we think it cannot be sold for less than 14 cents, per lb. His pork, killed at 94 months old, fed on milk and fattened with corn, cost 5 cents, per pound. The balance over expenses on the whole farm, for the last year was \$953.52.

Mr. Johnson practices the following system of rotation. 1st. corn, to which is applied all the unfertilized manure he can get. The next spring it is sown with barley at the rate of 24 bushels of seed to the acre, then sown to wheat in the fall, with a topdressing of fine manure, of about 6 loads to the acre. The following spring it is sown with 8 quarts of clover seed and 5 quarts of Timothy, with one bushel of plaster per acre, when it is allowed to remain three years in grass. The usual product is 55 bushels of corn, 30 of barley, and from 20 to 30 of wheat, per acre. The manure is kept under cover, and a regular system of underdraining is carried out.

This tax of working improvement in the soil, is much more delightful than all the vain glory which can be acquired by ravaging it with the most uninterested career of conquest.

[Washington.]

For the Maine Farmer.

Mr. Editor:—It should be a standing rule with the farmer to expend no money for articles which he can manufacture or produce himself. Poudrette, to which we accord a very high value as a fertilizing agent, may be manufactured by any one who has the means of obtaining the feces, and at much less cost than the article sold in the market can be. This I know from experience. My method is the same as that practiced in Europe. I move the soil from the privy in its perfectly crude and moist state, and deposit it in deep pits, excavated for the purpose, where it is permitted to remain undisturbed till it has undergone the putrefactive process, and become dry and portable. In this way I obtain an article possessing all the energetic virtues of the best poudrette. Another process is to mix the feces, while moist, with quick lime, and spread the mixture in layers to dry. This is the more speedy method, and may be economically adopted where the manure is wanted for immediate use. The mass is, in a short time, rendered perfectly dry and portable, and as the lime acts as a powerful deodorizer, it may be transported and applied without offence. In several experiments with the home-made article, compared with the poudrette of commerce, I found the results greatly in favor of the former; owing, doubtless, to its superior purity, and the undisturbed condition of its constituents.

In examining, critically, the chemical processes in these two methods, we perceive that a more or less complete destruction of the organic constituents of the feces takes place, and that all the volatile products of putrefaction or decomposition, and especially the ammonia and carbonic acid, are driven off. The nitrogen originally contained in the excrement, is, in the first case, reduced to a minimum; and the latter, where lime is used, it disappears altogether. But the salts contained in the mass, remain unchanged, and it is to their presence, exclusively, but more particularly, perhaps to the phosphates, that the fertilizing effect of poudrette is to be attributed.

According to Berzelius, human feces contain fifteen per cent. of ashes, and these are constituted as follows:—

Phosphate of lime, phosphate of magnesia, sulphate of lime, (traces), 67  
Sulphate of soda, sulphate of potash, phosphate of soda, 5  
Carbonate of soda, 5  
Silicic acid, 11  
Carbon and loss, 12

100  
Silicic acid is present in all the different kinds of excrement. It is, however, much more abundant in the ashes of cow's excrement, than in those of human feces. In the former it constitutes about sixty-three per cent., and of the ashes of horse manure forty per cent., while the ashes of night soil, or human feces, contain but eleven per cent. But in phosphates, the latter is far the richest, the ashes, upon analysis, yielding seventy per cent., while the ashes of horse dung yield but forty-one per cent., and those of cow dung but thirty per cent. of these salts. The food of man consists principally of wheat flour and animal flesh, substances, the ashes of which are remarkably affluent in phosphates, and to this fact we are to attribute the large amount of phosphates, (seventy per cent.) and the inferior amount of silicic acid detected in the ashes of human excrement. Fresh cow dung—the animal being fed on potatoes, beans, straw and hay, contained in one hundred parts: 2.2 of bile in a state of alteration. 8.3 mucus, &c. 14.1 non-digested (crude) vegetable remains and ashes. 75.4 water.

100.0  
The ashes amounted to six per cent. According to the analysis of Haidlen, their constitution was as follows:—

10.9 Phosphate of lime. 10.9 Phosphate of magnesia. 8.5 Phosphate of potash. 1.5 Carbonate of potash. 3.1 Sulphate of lime. 62.7 Silicic acid. 2.3 Loss.

100.0  
The contents of the privy should be removed as often as once a year, and where it is inconvenient to wait for the putrefaction and decomposition of the article, or where lime cannot be readily procured for its preparation, it should be mixed with good loam or muck, with a quantity of unleached wood ashes, and applied as a dressing to such crops as require its assistance. No article in the whole catalogue of manures, is of greater intrinsic value, and it is surprising that, with knowledge of this fact staring us in the face, little care should be exercised in economizing and applying it. For Indian corn, it is superior to every other manure, and when applied to wheat it produces the most surprising and salutary effects.

New-Castle co., Del., Jan. 10, 1855.  
[Germanstown Telegraph.]

COLORING OF GRAPE IN THE GRAPERY.

A good deal consists in properly ripening the foreign grapes, to give them that peculiar rich flavor, so highly prized by the connoisseur. It is more common to meet grapes badly colored than otherwise. This sometimes arises from over-chopping, but more frequently from diverting the vines of too much foliage and not allowing a sufficiency of ventilation at this season of the year. A house devoted solely to the grape, and planted long enough to be full of bearing wood, should always have the entire space covered with foliage. Many stop their fruit bearing branches too short, or even thin out the foliage to allow the sun to shine on the grapes, and thinking thereby to benefit them. There can be no greater mistake. The grape will grow and ripen perfectly under the shadow of the foliage, and it is in truth vastly benefited by foliage, and it is in truth vastly benefited by giving all the growth the surface will allow to be presented to the light. In the early stages of growth, it has been found by experience, that the vine likes a close moist atmosphere, gradually increasing the amount of air after they have attained their full size and commenced coloring, till the whole means at command are used, front and back, day and night, except in unfavorable weather, such as wet, wind, or a dull, moist atmosphere, which is liable to cause mildew and rot on the fruit.

[Country Gentleman.]

#### POUDRETTE.

Rightly to understand this piece of verse, it must be remembered that in the Eastern World wheat passes under the general name of corn.

In the young merry time of spring,  
When drowsy 'gigs to hand,  
When bluebells nod within the wood,  
And sweet May whitens first,  
When merril and mavis sing their fill,  
Green is the young corn on the hill.

But when the merry spring is past,  
And summer growing bold,  
And in the garden and the field  
A thousand flowers unfold,  
Before a green leaf yet is seen,  
The young corn shoots into the ear.

But then, as day and night succeed,  
And summer weareth on,  
And in the flowery garden beds  
The red rose growthen tall,  
And hollyhocks and sunflowers tall,  
O'er top the mossy garden wall;

When on the breath of autumn breeze,  
From pastures dry and brown,  
Goes floating, like an idle thought,  
The fair, white thistle-down;  
O, then what joy to walk at will  
Upon the golden harvest hill.

What joy in drowsy ease to lie  
Amid a field new-shorn,  
And see all round, on sunlit slopes,  
The piled-up shocks of corn,  
And send the fancy wandering o'er  
The pleasant harvest fields of yore!

I feel that day; I see the field;  
The quivering of the leaves;  
And good old Jacob and his house  
Binding the yellow sheaves;  
And at this very hour I seem  
To be with Joseph in his dream.

I see the fields of Bethlehem,  
And reapers mow a one,  
Beating into the sickle's stroke,  
And loaves looking on;  
And Ruth the Moabitess fair,  
Amid the gleaners stooping there.

Again I see a little child,  
His mother's sole delight;  
God's living gift of love unto  
The kind, good Shunammite;  
To mortal pang I see him yield,  
And the best heir him from the field.

The sun-bathed path of the hills,  
The fields of Gath,  
That eighteen hundred years ago  
Were full of corn; I see;  
And the dear Saviour take his way  
Mid fields of corn on the Sabbath day.

O, golden fields of bending corn,  
How beautiful they seem!  
The reapers-folk, the piled up sheaves,  
To me are like a dream;  
The sunshine and the very air  
Seem old time and made me there.

A FARM TO READ ABOUT.

The Ohio State Journal gives the following description of the farm of Gen. Worthington, of Chillicothe:—

"While in Chillicothe, a few days since, we availed ourselves of an opportunity of visiting the fine farm of General Worthington, which is located about two miles north of this city, upon the high grounds that overlook the beautiful valley of the Scioto.

"This farm contains about seven or eight hundred acres of the best land in the garden of Ohio, well supplied with the purest of water, and adorned with magnificent groves of forest trees. Fruit of the choicest kind, and of every variety, are to be found in the spacious orchards, for there are several, while the grape and the melon vines that were growing luxuriantly on every hand, satisfied us that the General would never suffer from the want of friendly visitors during the grape and melon season. Figs from the land of Smyrna, figs from the plains of Mexico, and pears from the semi-civilized gardens of Japan, flourish in his well-cultivated gardens, objects of curiosity to the stranger, and of pride and gratification to the well-cultivated taste of the General.

"A large stone mansion, built for durability, comfort and convenience by his ancestor, the late Governor Worthington, stands upon the bluff, from the top of which may be seen a country all up and down the winding Scioto, that in our humble opinion surpasseth anything that can be seen this side of Jordan.

"Fronting the farm on the east, at the foot of the hill, is a lake, constructed by the General himself, from a marshy piece of ground containing about fifteen acres, which is now stocked with various kinds of fishes, that await his pleasure whenever he may choose to have them served up at his table.

"A large ice-house, built upon the verge of the lake, stands conveniently ready to receive the frozen liquids into its capacious maw, whenever old winter with his hoary locks may choose to present the offering. From this receptacle one of the chief luxuries of summer, the General is enabled to supply the wants of the people of Chillicothe during the hot season.

"At a convenient distance from the tempting waters of this beautiful lake, the milk of fifty short-horn Durhams is kept, from the sale of which alone, the General realized the snug little sum of four thousand dollars."

How MUCH MANURE DO WE USE ON AN ACRE?

An acre of land contains 43,560 square feet, 4,840 square yards, or 160 square rods. By those who have used guano, it is said 300 pounds is sufficient to manure an acre; 302 1/2 lbs. would give one ounce avoirdupois to the square yard. A cubic yard of highly concentrated manure, like night soil, would, if evenly and properly spread, manure an acre very well. A cubic yard of long manure will weigh about 1,400 lbs.; a cubic foot not far from 50 lbs. A cord contains 128 cubic feet; a cord and a quarter would give about a cubic foot to the square rod. If liquid manure be used it would take 170 lbs. to give one gill to a square foot upon an acre, which would be equal to about 50 pipes or large hogheads. It would be quite useful if farmers would be a little more specific as to the amount of manure applied.

[Exchange.]

It has been ascertained by experiment, that a cow will drink about eighty-seven pounds of water in twenty-four hours.

#### CORN FIELDS.

BY MARY HOWITT.

Rightly to understand this piece of verse, it must be remembered that in the Eastern World wheat passes under the general name of corn.

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And loaves looking on;  
And Ruth the Moabitess fair,  
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Again I see a little child,  
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God's living gift of love unto  
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## NEWSPAPER.

[illegible]



